

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

S E C R E T BONN 05614

LIMDIS

VIENNA FOR MBFR DELEGATION

GENEVA FOR CSCE DELEGATION

E.O. 1165 GDS

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TAGS: PFOR, US, NATO, EEC, GW

SUBJECT: ATLANTIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY CRISIS:HIGH-LEVEL FRG VIEWS

1. FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL TOLD VISITING STAFFDEL HENDERSON AND EMBOFF APRIL 3 THAT THE CRISIS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND DETERIORATION OF ATLANTIC RELATIONS HAD REACHED A POINT WHERE IT NO LONGER IS POSSIBLE FOR WESTERN STATESMEN TO AVOID THE SUBSTANTIAL ISSUES DIVIDING THEM. WHILE THE GERMANS ARE CONSCIOUS THAT THERE IS "AN ELEMENT OF TACTICS AND POKER" INVOLVED, VAN WELL SAID WESTERN LEADERS "CAN NO LONGER PAPER OVER THE GENUINELY SUBSTANTIVE AND SERIOUS CHARACTER OF THEIR DIFFERENCES. IN BONN'S VIEW, SAID VAN WELL, IT IS NECESSARY FOR ALL THE WESTERN COUNTRIES TO SET ASIDE RHETORIC AND MUTUAL RECRIMINATIONS AND TO DISTINGUISH CLEARLY BETWEEN THEIR REAL INTERESTS AND NEGOTIATING TACTICS.

2. VAN WELL SAID THE FRG HAD MADE A CLEAR DECISION, SIMILAR TO THE ONE IN PRESIDENT NIXON'S LATEST LETTER TO CHANCELLOR BRANDT, THAT ATLANTIC AND EC PROBLEMS COULD NOT BE SIMPLY PAPERED OVER WITH DECLARATIONS BUT, INSTEAD, WOULD HAVE TO BE FACED SQUARELY. HE NOTED SCHEEL'S DIRECT STATEMENTS TO THE BRITISH AND FRENCH DURING THE APRIL 1-2 LUXEMBOURG COUNCIL MEETING AND ADDED THAT THE FRG "IS READY FOR A CLEAR, FRANK AND TOUGH DEBATE." HE SAID THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WAS BRIEFING THEIR PRESS AND WOULD BE INFORMING ITS CITIZENS OF THIS NEW LINE AND STRESSING THAT GERMANY WANTED THE DIFFICULT ATLANTIC AND EUROPEAN ISSUES "SETTLED FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL AT THIS POINT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION.

4. VAN WELL SAID "THE REAL ISSUE IN THE ATLANTIC DISPUTE IS, AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN, CONSULTATION AND HARMONIZATION OF POLICIES. HE SAID BONN CONSIDERED SUCH CONSULTATION/HARMONIZATION OF POLICIES WITH THE US ESSENTIAL; HE NOTED THAT THE PROPOSED GERMAN FORMULATION ON US/EC CONSULTATIONS AND THE ARAB DIALOGUE CONTEXT, REPORTED BONN 5525 PARA 3, HAD ALSO

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INCLUDED THE PHRASE PARTICULARLY WITH THE US" SIMILARLY, IN THE EC CONTEXT, VAN WELL SAID BONN WOULD STAND FAST AGAINST THE LABOR GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO RENEGOTIATE THE ROME TREATIES OR UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

5. IN CLOSING, VAN WELL RETURNED TO SCHEEL'S POINT IN THE MARCH 28 BUNDESTAG DEBATE, THAT MANY US CONGRESSMEN

COULD NOT BE CONVINCED WITH RITUAL CALLS TO THE COLORS
OF NATO SOLIDARITY AND THAT A LONG TERM US TROOP
COMMITMENT SHOULD BE FOUNDED MORE SQUARELY ON GENUINE
US SECURITY INTERESTS.

6. COMMENT: IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE NEXT EC MINISTERIAL POLITICAL DISCUSSION IS NOT EXPECTED UNTIL MIDDLE TO LATE MAY. IN LATE JUNE, SCHEEL IS DUE TO TAKE OVER THE OFFICE OF GERMAN PRESIDENT AND LIKELY TO BE REPLACED BY INTERIOR MINISTER GENSCHER. IT ALSO NOW SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE AN EC SUMMIT IN LATE MAY.

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